

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method of producing a fluoropolymer by which a melt-processable fluoropolymer (A) having a specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) is subjected to melt-kneading in a kneader comprising a stabilization treatment zone to thereby produce a fluoropolymer (B) resulting from conversion of said specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) to $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$,

said specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) comprising alkoxycarbonyl groups and/or fluoroalkoxycarbonyl groups,

the melt-kneading being carried out in the absence or presence of an alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element,

the content of said alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element being not greater than 2 ppm of the composition under melt-kneading, and

the melt-kneading in said stabilization treatment zone being carried out in the presence of water.

2. (original): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1, wherein the melt-kneading in the stabilization treatment zone is carried out in the presence of oxygen gas.

3. (previously presented): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1, wherein the kneader is a screw-type extruder.

4. (original): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 3, wherein the screw-type extruder is a twin-screw extruder.

5. (previously presented): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature in the stabilization treatment zone is set at 280 to 430°C.

6. (canceled).

7. -10. (canceled).